ROTATING NANOMACHINE

M. Frederick Hawthorne: CHE 0111718

The search for controlled rotary molecular motion which may be employed to actuate nanodevices and chemical processes led to the harnessing of the illustrated nickelacarborane and its motionproducing redox reactions (Science, 303, 1849-1851, 2004). Reversible rotation of one dicarbollide ligand with respect to its partner (Ni⁺⁴, cis; Ni⁺³, trans) may be controlled with respect to the direction of the rotation by adjusting the stereochemical arrangement of the cage substituents, R¹-R⁴. Related motion during the photoexcitation of the Ni⁺⁴ species is observed (Jeffrey I. Zink: CHE 0206857). Computational confirmation of the rotary process and its power output was achieved as well (Daniel Neuhauser: CHE 0315292).

